

AMERICAN DRAGON  
"The Talented Mr. Long"  
(7W14 D 108)

TEASER:

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON TARANUSHI'S CHALICE - GLIMMERING IN THE MOONLIGHT.

It's a slightly tarnished golden goblet, with handles on either side. A hand reaches in to grab it when a heavy CLUB knocks the hand away.

1 NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Taranushi's Chalice. For thousands of centuries man and magical beast alike have fought to possess it.

WIDEN - as TWO CAVEMEN wrestle over the chalice. Suddenly a BURST of FIRE from O.S. shoots at the chalice, causing both cavemen to DROP it.

WIDEN FURTHER - to REVEAL a SHADOWY DARK DRAGON, who blows another burst of fire at the cavemen, then swoops in, grabs the chalice and flies away. The cavemen look down at the burning ground below them, amazed. As they begin to dance around the fire excitedly we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD - DAY

ON THE DRAGON - as he flies through the sky carrying the chalice, suddenly he's struck by LIGHTENING.

He drops the chalice and we track with it as it falls...

2 NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Countless lives have been lost in the quest to control the powers locked within in.

...INTO THE HANDS of an EVIL LOOKING DARK KNIGHT.

WIDEN - as the KNIGHT holds up the chalice, suddenly, A DOZEN OTHER KNIGHTS (who don't look as evil) RISE UP OVER A HILLSIDE and charge at him.

As a fierce battle rages, the chalice is knocked into a RAGING RIVER...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The RAGING RIVER turns into a CRESTING WAVE that crashes against the side of a BOAT.

ON THE BOAT - as a CAPTAIN sits on deck, polishing the CHALICE. Suddenly an EXPLOSION RINGS OUT and we WIDEN to see the that ship is under siege from PIRATES.

3 NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Through fires, floods and famine  
the chalice has survived.

THE CAPTAIN grabs the chalice and DIVES overboard, only to be hit by a violent wave. The captain loses his grip on the chalice.

ON THE OCEAN FLOOR - as the chalice sinks ominously to the bottom of the ocean. A MERMAID swims up, grabbing the chalice.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW ENGLAND DOCKS - DAY

A FISHING CREW dumps their net out on the docks. Nestled within the pile of slippery FISH is the CHALICE.

A CREW MAN picks up the Chalice and surreptitiously tucks it

into his coat pocket...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

The CREW MAN pulls the CHALICE out of his coat pocket.

WIDEN TO REVEAL that he stands in a shadowy old factory. A GOBLIN wearing a trenchcoat and a fedora stands next to him.

4           NARRATOR/CREW MAN  
And now, finally, for a small fee,  
it can be yours...

5           GOBLIN  
Cut the dramatics, see! I'm not  
here for a bedtime story, I'm here  
for the goods!

The Goblin lunges at the Crew Man, causing the Chalice to fly out of his hands. As the Crew Man and the Goblin wrestle on the floor, we TRACK with the chalice as it flies through the factory...

LANDING on the factory conveyor belt between two other generic looking trophies.

The Goblin and the Crewman stand.

6           GOBLIN  
The chalice! Where is it? Where  
is it?!

WIDEN - the factory is a virtual maze of trophies that all look exactly like the Chalice.

7           GOBLIN  
You fool! It's lost forever!

CLOSE ON THE CHALICE (slightly more tarnished and elaborate than the other trophies.) As the chalice rides the belt along with the other cups, it's stamped 'FIRST PRIZE.'

The CHALICE then rolls off the conveyor belt into a passing

PACKING BOX.

ON A LOADING DOCK - as a WORKER throws a final box on a DELIVERY TRUCK and PULLS DOWN the truck door. The TRUCK drives away...

8 SPUD (V.O.)  
Forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAKE'S SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

CLOSE ON the Chalice in a place of honor in the SCHOOL TROPHY CASE.

9 SPUD  
I've been waiting forever for  
Principal Derceto to announce the  
school talent show.

WIDEN TO REVEAL SPUD, TRIXIE and JAKE staring at the chalice.

10 TRIXIE  
Here we go again.

11 SPUD  
This is my year, Trix. I can feel  
it.

12 JAKE  
Um, Spud. You say that every year.

13 SPUD  
But this time, I'm gonna do it.  
This year's trophy is the nicest  
one yet!

The kids exit, to REVEAL PROFESSOR ROTWOOD lurking in the shadows behind them.

ANGLE OVER ROTWOOD'S SHOULDER - he holds up a book with a picture of a MAGICAL CHALICE. The picture matches the trophy.

14            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
It can't be... but it is... Ohhhhh  
You will be mine!! .

WIDEN TO REVEAL that passing students have stopped to stare  
at Professor Rotwood. He awkwardly and  
slams the book shut, straitening his tie and walking away.

15            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
As you were...

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

ACT I

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY (LOCKERS) - DAY

Trixie and Jake stand by as Spud digs through his locker.

16 SPUD  
Okay, I know it's in here  
somewhere...

He tosses out an umbrella, an inflatable water floatie ring with a giraffe head on it, a pair of red sequined cowboy boots until...

17 SPUD  
A-hah! Or should I say...

He puts on a top hat and a cape.

18 SPUD  
Voila! Spud-the-Spudnificent,  
magician extraordinaire, ready for  
action.

19 TRIXIE  
Yo, Spud, I'm thinking maybe this  
talent show business ain't such a  
good idea.

20 JAKE  
Trixie's got a point. I mean,  
remember last year?

SWISH PAN TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

Spud stands on stage in his cape and top hat.

He reaches into the sleeve of his cape (draped over his arm) and pulls out... his entire outfit out from the "sleeve" of his cape. (He is now wearing just a cape, a top hat and BOXER SHORTS.)

21           TRIXIE (V.O.)  
And the year before that...

REWIND TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

A younger Spud stands on stage (in each flashback, Spud is smaller, but the top hat and cape stay the same size.)  
Spud takes off his top hat. He taps it with a magic wand... reaches his hand in... and gets it stuck in the hat.  
Spud tugs at his hand with his free hand. As he SLAMS the hat against the table repeatedly a flock of DOVES fly out from under the table, sending SPUD running screaming off stage.

22           JAKE (V.O.)  
And the year before that...

REWIND TO:

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - FLASHBACK

A terrified (and somewhat younger looking) TRIXIE stands against a wall with an apple on her head.  
WIDEN, as Spud picks up a hatchet from a table across the stage and aims it at Trixie...

SWISH PAN TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Trixie rubs her forehead, disturbed.

23           SPUD  
At least the hatchets were made of rubber.

24           TRIXIE  
Trust me, homeboy. Rubber don't make the nightmares go away.

25 SPUD  
Forget the hatchets. This is  
about a dream, man! My great  
grandfather was a magician, and he  
taught me never to give up.

26 TRIXIE  
Too bad he didn't teach you any  
magic.

27 SPUD  
I'll never forget his catch phrase.  
Words of immense magical power:  
"Abigo -ere -egi -actum!"

28 JAKE  
What the heck does that mean?

29 SPUD  
I dunno. That was always about  
when he was laughed off the stage.  
That's why I've been trying to win  
this thing all these years. For  
Super Gramps. And also, 'cause the  
trophies are always so shiny.

30 JAKE  
You really want to win this thing,  
huh?

31 SPUD  
More than I want air to breath...  
well, you know except for the part  
where I suffocate without it.

Spud and Trixie exchange a glance, then...

32 JAKE  
Okay, we're in.

33 SPUD  
What?

34 TRIXIE  
Spud-the-Spudnificent just got  
himself two lovely assistants.  
We're gonna help you win this  
thing.

35 SPUD  
You mean it?!?!?

Spud throws his arms around Trixie and Jake.



36 SPUD  
You two are the best friends in the  
whole world!

Jake puts an arm around Spud as the three continue down the hallway.

37 JAKE  
We are so on this thing, bro. That  
trophy is as good as yours.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL @ NIGHT

CLOSE ON THE TROPHY in the trophy case.

IN THE SHADOWS @ a gloved hand reaches towards the case,  
trying to use a crowbar to jimmy the lock.

38 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (O.S.)  
Wednesday. Eleven p.m. Quest to  
prove existence of magical  
creatures.

WIDEN TO REVEAL PROFESSOR ROTWOOD, dressed in his best cat  
burglar black (including a ski mask), speaking into a SMALL  
HANDHELD TAPE RECORDER.

39 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Have learned that Taranushi's  
Chalice has ended up as the first  
prize in the school talent show.

The trophy case swings open. The CHALICE glistens  
seductively.

40 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
The chalice contains a magical  
creature that I plan to unleash,  
thus proving for once and for all  
that...

Suddenly an ALARM goes off.

A FLASHLIGHT shines in Professor Rotwood's face.

41 POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)  
You there! Hands in the air!

WIDEN TO REVEAL TWO POLICE OFFICERS hovering over Professor Rotwood. Professor Rotwood grabs blindly for the trophy and makes a run for it.

The SECURITY GUARD gives chase

UP ANGLE in a STAIRWELL - as Professor Rotwood enters the stairwell, jumping down several steps at a time, the Police Officers close on his heels.

ANGLE IN A HALLWAY - as ROTWOOD bursts out of the stairwell, and slides to a stop at a water fountain.

He quickly puts the chalice under the water fountain flow.

As it starts to fill, the officers approach.

42 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
You're my witnesses. When the  
chalice runneth over with water,  
the creature shall be released and  
all my research will be proven  
true!

A beat... as the chalice indeed runneths over... and nothing happens.

The Police Officers exchange a glance.

43 POLICE OFFICER # 2  
Looks like we got another one for  
Bellview.

Professor Rotwood takes at the trophy, confused.

CLOSE ON THE TROPHY - clearly NOT Taranushi's Chalice. It reads 'STATE FINALIST - Chess Club!'

44 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
CHESS CLUB!? This is the wrong  
trophy! Taranushi's chalice is the  
talent show trophy!

As the Police Officers approach him, Rotwood throws the

trophy at them, splashing them both with water.

45 POLICE OFFICER #1/POLICE  
OFFICER #2

Ahhhh!

As the officers wipe their faces, Rotwood disappears into the night.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Jake, Trixie and Spud walk down the hallway. Spud pulls out a deck of cards, fanning out the deck.

46 SPUD  
Okay, I've been working on this one  
for the show. Pick a card, any  
card...

CLOSE ON THE DECK - as Spud clearly forces the 6 of clubs towards Trixie.

Trixie reaches for a DIFFERENT CARD. Spud tries to maneuver the deck to force her to pick the six. She still doesn't pick it.

47 SPUD  
Any... card... (then) Okay, not  
that card.

Just then, Trixie, Spud and Jake pass the now empty trophy case, which is being boarded up. PRINCIPAL DERCETO, a stern but likable woman, sits in her WHEELCHAIR, talking to the POLICE OFFICERS.

Jake takes, curious. He lingers back as Trixie and Spud continue down the hallway.

48 SPUD  
I can't do the trick if you keep  
picking the wrong card!

ON JAKE - as he morphs into his dragon ear to listen...

49 JAKE  
Ear of the dragon...

ON DERCETO and the Police Officers.

50 POLICE OFFICER #1  
I wish I could tell you more,  
Principal. The perp escaped on  
foot before we could question him  
further.

51 POLICE OFFICER #2  
He was ranting about the talent  
show trophy like a madman.

52 POLICE OFFICER #1  
Luckily, he didn't manage to steal  
anything.

Principal Derceto shakes her head.

53 PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Vandals. From now on I'll

be storing the school trophies  
somewhere safe.

JAKE - morphs back to his regular ear and walks away,  
curious.

54 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (V.O.)  
Which leads us to conclude that  
magical creatures are indeed among  
us.

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S CLASSROOM Ð DAY

Professor Rotwood stands in front of his bored class,  
lecturing on. As he talks, he begins to drift off to  
sleep...

55 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
But, never you fear. I will search  
out these creatures day and  
night...

(MORE)

55 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)  
Well, only night actually, since  
I've been forced to take this day  
job. But rest assured- rest  
assured...

rest... ah, rest. ...

Jake, Trixie and Spud exchange a glance.

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD himself back awake.

BRAD - elbows a CLASSMATE, .

56 BRAD  
I've never had a teacher so boring  
he puts himself to sleep.

Brad bumps fist with his classmate joyously. Suddenly  
He looks up to see Professor Rotwood SLAMMING his  
hand son his desk, leaning towards him menacingly.

57 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Ohhh, so we have a comedian on our  
hands. Here's a joke for you,  
Mister Haha. Knock Knock. Who's  
There? YOU'RE FAILING MY CLASS!

Brad's smile drops.

58 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
And per school rules, any student  
who fails a class, even the star  
quarterback, loses his football  
eligibility. Hilarious, isn't it?

The . Professor Rotwood exits the classroom.

59 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Class dismissed.

ON SPUD, TRIXIE and JAKE as they gather their books.

60 SPUD  
Alright, here's another one I've  
been practicing: the old  
tablecloth trick... You know,  
except without the tablecloth... or  
the dishes... Or like silverware...

Spud reaches for Professor Rotwood's desk blotter. On top of  
the blotter are several books, stacks of papers and a full

coffee cup.

After a few dramatic flourishes with his hands, he grabs the blotter, and yanks it out from under the contents of Rotwood's desk... unsuccessfully... The contents of Rotwood's desk go flying.

Trixie and Jake hurry to put Professor Rotwood's desk in order.

61           TRIXIE  
Yo, getting us busted with Rotwood  
is no kinda talent, you hear me?

As Jake picks up a book, he notices that it's open to a dog eared page.

62           TRIXIE  
Jakey, you coming?

63           JAKE  
Uh... I'll catch up with you guys  
later.

As Trixie and Spud exit, Jake looks down at the book again.  
CLOSE ON THE PAGE: A picture of the talent show trophy with the words "TARANUSHI'S CHALICE" under it.

64           GRANDPA (V.O.)  
Taranushi's chalice.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - LATER

PULL OUT TO REVEAL we are in Grandpa's shop. Jake stands before a worried looking Fu Dog and Grandpa. The book is open in front of them.

65           GRANDPA  
(reading)  
...created two million years ago by  
a tribe of nomadic elves...

Suddenly Grandpa knocks the book off the desk.

66            GRANDPA  
Trash! What is this trash?

67            JAKE  
So, the talent show trophy isn't  
some ancient chalice?

68            GRANDPA  
No, it is. But everyone knows that  
Taranushi's Chalice was created by  
goblins, not elves.

Grandpa pulls out a dusty, ancient SCROLL from his shelves.

He unfurls it...

A picture of Taranushi's Chalice is projected out of the  
scroll.

69            GRANDPA  
Taranushi's chalice has an evil  
Djinn imprisoned within it.

Grandpa unfurls the scroll further. An image of a DJINN  
appears. The Djinn is ferocious fire-based monster,  
surrounded in wispy, smoky green flames.

70            GRANDPA  
When the chalice is filled to the  
point that it runneth over, the  
Djinn will be released.

71            JAKE  
How do you get it back in?

72            GRANDPA  
I'm afraid you don't.  
Unfortunately, the incantation to  
recapture the creature has been  
lost for a century.

73            FU DOG  
And that Professor Nutwood knows  
about this Chalice?

74            JAKE  
I bet he was the one who tried to  
steal it last night! He could  
barely stay awake in class today.

Grandpa turns to Jake sternly.

75            GRANDPA  
Jake, you must get that chalice  
before Professor Rotwood does. The  
safety of the magical community  
depends on it.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL DERCETO'S OFFICE D DAY

The office is empty. Suddenly DRAGON JAKE appears in the window. He pries open the window and JUMPS in, quickly morphing back into HUMAN FORM before he lands in the office. He quickly begins opening desk drawers and cabinets.

76            JAKE  
Okay. If I were an ancient magical  
chalice where would I--

Suddenly Jake hears approaching footsteps. He takes, frozen.

77            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (O.S.)  
I just wanted to express my concern  
that the trophies, especially the  
talent show trophy, were safe from  
any further vandal attempts in the  
um... where was it you hid it  
again?

WIDEN - as Professor Rotwood (carrying a cup of coffee) and  
Principal Derceto enter. Jake is nowhere to be seen.

78            PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Professor Rotwood, I've never seen  
you take such interest in our  
talent show before.

WIDEN FURTHER - to include the CEILING where Jake now in his  
DRAGON FORM, clings to the ceiling by his claws, terrified.

79            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Well, frankly, Principal Derceto, I  
feel that certain students here  
have talents that they're hiding.

ON JAKE - as his claws begin to shake. A bead of sweat forms



on the tip of his dragon nose.

80            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Talents that should be exposed to  
the whole world.

As a BEAD OF SWEAT falls from Jake's nose...

Principal Derceto leans towards Rotwood. As Rotwood leans  
away, the sweat into his coffee cup, unnoticed.

81            PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Rest assured, Professor, the trophy  
is safe. The next and only person  
to get their hands on it will be  
the winner of the talent show.

ON JAKE - as he winces.

82            PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Now if you'll excuse me?

Professor Rotwood exits the office, drinking the coffee.

83            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
(re: the coffee)  
Hmmm. Fresh roasted.

JAKE struggles to hang onto the ceiling as Principal Derceto  
rolls her wheelchair towards the desk.

ON JAKE - as he hangs on with all his might, a FLY lands on  
his nose. He flinches, winces, and tries to shake the fly  
off. Finally he SNORTS a quiet BURST OF NOSTRIL FIRE at the  
fly, singeing it.

ON PRINCIPAL DERCETO - as a crispy charred fly lands right in  
her paper work. She looks up at see JAKE - now in his human  
form, leaning casually against her open office door.

84            PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Mr. Long. I didn't hear you come  
in. Can I help you?

85 JAKE  
Uh... yeah... I was just... looking  
for um... the beat. Oh, here it  
is...

Jake starts and backs his way out of the  
office. Principal Derceto shrugs and returns to her work.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake sits in front of Grandpa and Fu Dog, as they make tea.

86 GRANDPA  
Then you know what you have to do.  
You must enter the talent show and  
win that Chalice.

87 JAKE  
No way, Gramps. I already told  
Spud I'd help him win. I can't  
enter against my best friend.

88 FU DOG  
Kid, if Professor Nutwood gets a  
hold of that chalice he'll expose  
magical creatures to the world...  
science wants answers... next thing  
you know, boom, Eunice the Unicorn  
is getting sliced up in a lab.

As Grandpa pours himself a cup of tea, the steam from the tea  
rises to form the image of the American Dragon.

89 GRANDPA  
You must enter that talent show and  
you must win it. It is your duty  
as the American Dragon.

90 JAKE  
Aw, man.

A sulky Jake bats at the steam image causing it to dissipate.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S OFFICE D DAY

Professor Rotwood sits in his office. He quickly flips through test papers, stamping BIG RED F'S on each one with a rubber F STAMP. A KNOCK on his door reveals BRAD, standing awkwardly in the doorway.

91 BRAD  
Knock, knock...

92 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Who's there? (then) Well, what's the punchline? You can't just say knock-knock and not have a punchline. We really have to work on your delivery.

93 BRAD  
(confused as heck)  
I just... you told me to come by. I can come back if...

94 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
No. I asked you here to offer you an extra credit opportunity. Perhaps a way to reinstate your status on the football team. Sit, sit.

Brad takes a seat in the office.

Professor Rotwood smiles and pulls out a file.

95 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
I've noticed from your transcripts that you seem to be quite the piano prodigy. You've taken piano lessons for the last eleven years, yes?

96 BRAD  
Twelve actually.

97 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
 Hmm. What do you say we continue  
 this conversation at the talent  
 show rehearsal?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - TALENT SHOW REHEARSAL

ON STAGE - A BOY in a HILLBILLY looking overalls and straw  
 hat stands on stage.

98 HOG CALLER  
 (dramatic haiku)  
 Dusk comes quickly now./ The suns  
 sets on the hay field. / The hogs  
 will come home.

He his throat dramatically, and with a flourish,  
 raises his hand to cup his mouth then BURSTS FORTH WITH:

99 HOG CALLER  
 Soooooooo-ey! Sooooo-ey! Soey!  
 Soey! Piggy-piggy-piggy-  
 piggggeeeey!

100 SPUD (O.S.)  
 Oh, the competition is gonna be fi  
 erce.

PAN TO TRIxie and SPUD watching this from the wings.

SPUD, wearing a MAGICIAN'S CAPE and TOP HAT thrusts a balled  
 up SILVER SEQUINED DRESS at Trixie.

101 SPUD  
 Here. Put this on.

Trixie holds it up to herself, confused.

102 TRIxie  
 Does my bootie look like a disco  
 ball to you?

Jake enters frame, carrying a FU DOG SIZED BLACK CARRYING  
 CASE, with a handle on the top, and AIRHOLES on both sides.

103 JAKE  
 Hey guys, what's up?

104       TRIXIE  
Jake, where have you been? Tell  
Spud that lovely assistants can be  
just as lovely in jeans and t  
shirts. I don't see him trying to  
cram you into a sequined dress.

105       SPUD  
Well, actually...

Spud pulls a second dress out of his bag, but Jake cuts him  
off.

106       JAKE  
Well, uh... about that, I kinda  
sorta gotta back out of the Spud  
the-Spudnificent act.

A nervous Jake fakes an optimistic smile.

107       JAKE  
I'm...uh... entering the talent  
show too.

Trixie and Spud take at Jake in shock.

108       TRIXIE  
I'm sorry, it sounded like you said  
you were entering the talent show,  
but that's impossible, 'cause if  
you take that trophy away from  
Spud, you'd be crushing his one and  
only dream.

109       SPUD  
Now, Trixie. I'm sure Jake has a  
very good explanation as to why  
he's stabbing his best friend in  
the back. Right, Jake?

110       JAKE  
Right. Yeah. I do. (then) I  
mean... I would, if I did, but... I  
guess I don't so...

Trixie and Spud exchange a glance. A beat, then...

111       TRIXIE  
C'mon, Spud. Let's go check out  
the REAL competition.

Trixie and Spud link arms and walk over to the side of the

stage. Jake SIGHS as they walk away.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - (MONTAGE)

ANGLE ON THE STAGE - A BOY stands on stage with a TRIANGLE.  
He it a few polite times then goes Geoffrey Rush and  
RAPIDLY fires out an near impossible rendition of FLIGHT OF  
THE BUMBLEBEE entirely with on the triangle.

WIPE TO:

ANGLE ON THE  
STAGE:

A GIRL (ORIGAMI GIRL), surrounded by piles and piles of  
ORIGAMI SWANS rapidly folds swan after swan.

112        ORIGAMI GIRL  
(rapid fire)  
Fifty swans. Fifty one. Fifty two.  
Fifty three. Fifty four. Fifty  
five. Fifty Six. Fifty Seven.

WIPE TO:

ANGLE ON THE  
STAGE:

JAKE - walks onto stage carrying his carrying case.  
Jake opens his case and pulls out FU DOG, who wears a PIRATE  
HAT and an EYE PATCH. FU DOG smiles stiffly, as if he were a  
ventriloquist dummy. Jake sits Fu on his lap and they begin  
their act:

113        FU DOG  
Hey, what do you call a pirate ship  
in Soho?

114        JAKE  
I don't know, Captain HarrrrHarrrr,  
what?

115        FU DOG  
Yo-ho! Where do pirates go for  
picnics? Central Parrrrrrrrrk.

116 JAKE  
What don't they serve escargot in  
Davy Jones' locker?

Jake reaches down out of frame and pulls up a glass of water.  
He quickly drinks from it as FU DOG goes on.

117 FU DOG  
'Cause Deadmen sell no snails! Ba  
dum-bum!

ANGLE ON THE WINGS - Spud and Trixie exchange a worried  
glance.

118 SPUD  
Dude. He's really good.

PAN TO BRAD and PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - as Professor Rotwood  
shoots Brad a withering look.

119 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
I trust you'll be better.

Professor Rotwood shoves Brad out to the stage.  
ON STAGE - Brad SNEERS at Jake as they trade places.  
Brad crosses to a PIANO on stage.

ANGLE IN THE  
WINGS:

JAKE AND FU DOG approach Professor Rotwood in the wings.

120 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Admirable attempt, Mr. Long. But  
I'm afraid you'll never beat my  
young piano prodigy with that mangy  
puppet.

IN THE BG, Brad stretches, cracks his fingers, and  
dramatically prepares for his rehearsal.  
FU DOG - looks Professor Rotwood up and down.

121 FU DOG  
Who you calling mangy there, Molly  
Mc-Hairpiece?

122 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
I beg your pardon?

Jake takes, but has no choice but to play along with Fu's act. In the BG, Brad touches his toes, stretches his arms, etc.

123 JAKE  
Heh. Heh. Take it easy there,  
Captain HarrrrHarrrr...

124 FU DOG  
Seriously, you might want to call  
an exterminator for that rat's nest  
you call hair.

Jake, still smiling, shoves FU DOG into his carrying case.

125 FU DOG  
(muffling out)  
I'd like to introduce you to a new  
concept -it's called a comb!

Jake looks up at Rotwood.

126 JAKE  
What can I say? He's got a mind of  
his own.

127 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Hilarious. You'll be laughing all  
the way to last place. Now if  
you'll excuse me, I have a  
beautiful concerto to listen to.

ON STAGE - Brad finishes CRACKING his neck, stretches his fingers one final time and sits at the piano to play...  
...the most poorly played, out of rhythm rendition of  
that anyone's ever heard.

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - SEETHES. Jake watches him suspiciously.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Brad walks home. A CAR SQUEALS, up on the curb, cutting him



off.

A FRAZZLED LOOKING Professor Rotwood charges out of the car.

128            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Twelve years? Twelve years of  
piano lessons?

129            BRAD  
Hey I said I took'em I didn't say I  
was any good.

130            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
We had a deal. Unless you get me  
that trophy, you will fail my class  
and be removed from the football  
team! Luckily, you have plenty of  
other things going for you. Things  
like... Well... (getting an idea)  
Oh, there's the--- (then) no.  
(then getting another idea) I know  
you're excellent at... (then) no...

131            BRAD  
Hey. Don't sweat it. You'll get  
your trophy. I may not play piano  
good, but the Bradster has other  
talents.

132            PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Like addressing yourself in the  
third person?

133            BRAD  
Like eliminating the competition.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake and Fu Dog sit on a stool in the shop, practicing.

134            FU DOG  
Greenwich Pillage. Get it?  
Pillage? Come on, can we put it in  
the act?

135            JAKE  
Yeah, whatever.

136            FU DOG  
Kid! Come on! You gotta get into  
this.

(MORE)

136 FU DOG (CONT'D)  
Your timing was totally off on the  
Empaaarrrrggghh State Building bit.

137 TRIXIE (O.S.)  
Yo, that puppet is messed up. It's  
just... so real.

REVEAL TRIXIE standing at the doorway of the shop. Fu Dog  
freezes up.

Trixie walks up and picks him up. Fu Dog eyes Jake, worried.

138 TRIXIE  
Where do you put your hand up this  
thing anyway-

Jake quickly grabs Fu Dog from Trixie, setting him on the  
counter behind them.

139 JAKE  
Uh... what's up Trixie?

140 TRIXIE  
I came to ask you the same thing.  
(then) Spud is really bummed, Jake.  
His big old Spud heart is breaking.

141 JAKE  
Trixie, I just... I have to do  
this.

142 TRIXIE  
I'm not trying to hear that, Jake.  
You and I both know you can beat  
Spud. Isn't that enough? I'm  
asking you to drop out. As a  
friend.

Jake considers, torn. But finally...

143 JAKE  
I can't.

144 TRIXIE  
Well... You gotta do what you gotta  
do. I just hope you know what  
you're doing.

Trixie exits.

Jake, frustrated and furious, lashes out, KICKING OVER a

stack of boxes in the corner.

145 GRANDPA (O.S.)  
A pot which boils over every day is  
soon empty.

Jake looks up to see Grandpa standing calmly in the back doorway. He SIGHS and sits down at the desk. Grandpa sits next to him.

146 JAKE  
I'm sorry, Gramps, it's just...  
this is so messed up.

147 GRANDPA  
I'm sorry, too young one... But as  
the American Dragon you will be  
faced with many difficult  
decisions.

148 JAKE  
So what am I supposed to do?

149 GRANDPA  
I cannot answer that. We are each  
faced with many roads along our  
journey, and we cannot always chose  
the one that's easiest to travel.  
Sometimes, we must make sacrifices.  
Why do you think Grandpa's only  
friend is a 600-year-old-sharpei?

Fu Dog smiles and throws open his arms Jimmy Durante style.

150 FU DOG  
What can I say, I'm great at  
parties!

Jake as we SLOWLY DISSOLVE TO...

151 PRINCIPAL DERCETO (V.O.)  
Welcome to the school talent show!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM Ð DAY OF THE TALENT SHOW

ON THE JUDGES TABLE Ð where Principal Derceto and a few other  
JUDGES/TEACHERS sit ready to judge the talent show.

Taranushi's Chalice sits on the table, under the watchful eye of Principal Derceto.

152           PRINCIPAL DECERTO  
First contestant: Obediah Mayfield  
with his award-winning hog call.

ANGLE ON HOG CALLER boy standing center stage.

153           HOG CALLER  
Dusk comes quickly now./ The suns  
sets on the hay field. / The hogs  
will come home.

He his throat dramatically, and with a flourish,  
raises his hand to cup his mouth then BURSTS FORTH WITH:

154           HOG CALLER  
Soooooooo-ey!   Sooooo-ey! Soey!  
Soey! Piggy-piggy-piggy-  
piggggeeeey!

Suddenly A WILD HOG tears on the stage, attacking Hog Calling boy. The HOG throws the boy to the floor...

155           HOG CALLER  
Ahhhh! Pig attack! Get it off me!  
Get it off me!

A beat, and the boy regains his feet and runs for his life,  
the hog tight on his heels.

ON THE WINGS - Rotwood and Brad stand side by side. Brad  
grins evilly, holding a rope in his hand.

156           BRAD  
I dated a girl who's a Hog Farmer.

Brad holds up his hand for Rotwood to high five.

157           BRAD  
Up high, Proff!

Rotwood yanks Brad's hand down angrily.

WIPE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Origami girl sits on the stage, a neat stack of colored paper on her lap.

158            ORIGAMI GIRL  
Ahem. One swan...

She quickly attempts to fold a swan, but the paper gets stuck to her hand. She reaches for another paper.... and another... before long her hands are a mass of stickly colored paper.

159            ORIGAMI GIRL  
(losing it)  
One swan... one swan... ONE... SWAN  
!!!

She wipes her brow in frustration, causing colored paper to stick to her face.

IN the BG HOG CALLER runs by, still chased by the angry hog.

WIPE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

TRIANGLE BOY WALKS OUT ON STAGE. He sets down his triangle case on a table in front of him.

He opens the triangle case to reveal -

HIS TRIANGLE a bent crumpled mess.

160            TRIANGLE BOY  
The triangle boy grabs his hair and runs off stage...

ANGLE ON THE WINGS -

As triangle boy runs past Brad and Rotwood.

161            TRIANGLE BOY  
The music is dead! The music is dead! (ALT: WHY!?! WHY!?!)

162 BRAD  
Now, all I have to do is get rid of  
Jake and it's in the bag.

163 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
What about this Spud-the  
Spudnificent?

164 BRAD  
You mean Spud-the-dud? I don't  
think he'll be a problem.

Brad points...

SWISH PAN to SPUD and TRIxie dressed in their respective  
costumes. Spud reaches into his hat and pulls out...  
nothing. He turns the hat inside out confused.

165 SPUD  
Uh... anyone see a little white  
rabbit?

166 TRIxie  
Yo, that's like the third bunny  
you've lost today.

Trixie gets down on her hands and knees looking around.

167 TRIxie  
I swear, the things I do for that  
boy...

As Trixie crawls off, Brad sidles up besides Spud.

168 BRAD  
Listen. It's just you me and  
puppet boy left in the show. So  
um... whadaya say we get rid of  
Jake and make it a fair contest?

Spud takes, appalled.

169 SPUD  
No way, Jake's my bud.

170 BRAD  
Fine. Good luck with your "talent"  
magic-boy.

Brad turns on his heels and exits.

A beat, as the bunny crawls up on top of an oblivious Spud's

head.

171 SPUD  
Hey! That's magic-man to you!

ANGLE ON JAKE and FU DOG, in the wings, eyeing the trophy. Fu Dog wears a pirate hat and an eye patch.

172 FU DOG  
Listen, kid! I know you're bummed about this, but... (then suddenly)  
Avast, matey! Trouble off the starboard bow.

WIDEN - to REVEAL Brad approaching.

173 BRAD  
Hey, um... Principal Derceto wants us to wait upstairs 'til our turn.

174 JAKE  
Why?

175 BRAD  
Dude?! If I could read the principal's mind, I'd be... like a mind reader or something. You coming or not?

Jake shrugs, and follows Brad upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS/ BATHROOM @ SAME

As Jake follows Brad upstairs, Jake begins to grow suspicious...

There's nothing there but some storage boxes and an old bathroom.

176 JAKE  
Are you sure this is where-

Suddenly, Brad rips FU DOG out of Jake's hand and tosses him (football pass style) through the open door of the bathroom.

177 BRAD  
Go deep for your little puppet, sucker!

Jake dives after Fu Dog...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake dives into the bathroom, trying to catch Fu Dog... Jake misses, and Fu Dog SPLASHES into the open toilet. Brad peeks his head in the bathroom door.

178 PRINCIPAL DERCE TO (O.S.)  
Please welcome our next contestant,  
Brad Morton.

179 BRAD  
There's my cue. Too bad you'll  
miss yours, loser!

Brad SLAMS the door on Jake. We hear a LOCK click into place.

Jake SCOFFS.

180 JAKE  
Yeah, like a locked door can keep  
in the American Dragon. Let's get  
outa here, Fu...

181 FU DOG  
Uh, minor problem, kid...

Jake turns around to see that Fu Dog's foot is stuck in the toilet. In the DISTANCE, we hear Brad's horrible rendition of CHOPSTICKS start to play.

182 JAKE  
Aw, Fu... gross.

183 FU DOG  
Oh, yeah, like I planned to make my  
paw one with the plumbing. Get me  
outa here, will ya?

Jake grabs a hold of Fu Dog from under his arms and tugs... He falls back, an arm-load of Fu Dog's fur stretched out, still in his arms. Fu's fur is pulled tight around his eyes, causing them to bug out.



184 FU DOG  
Easy kid! You trying to skin me?!?

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

BRAD - on stage finishes his rendition of and bows.

Principal Derceto exchanges uncomfortable glances with the other judges.

185 PRINCIPAL DERCE TO  
Alright. Thank you for that interesting piece... Next contestant: Spud-the-Spudnificent.

ON SPUD - backstage, the rabbit still on his head.

186 SPUD  
Trixie! We can't go on yet! I can't find...

Trixie walks up, takes the rabbit off Spud's head and puts it in his arms.

187 SPUD  
My rabbit! Thanks!

As Spud rolls his table of props (which is covered with a black table cloth) on stage we...

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM D SAME

With a final tug Jake YANKS Fu Dog free of the toilet.

188 JAKE  
Alright. Time to unlock this door, Dragon style. Dragon up!

Jake morphs into full dragon, but in doing so, his TAIL JUTS out, knocking the toilet off its base.

The toilet flies up into the air, causing a fountain of water

to spring up into the bathroom stall. The toilet comes crashing down and lands on Jake's shoulders, knocking him flat onto the ground.

Fu Dog runs over to him.

189 FU DOG  
Whoa. Dragon down!

As the water continues to sprout out of the open hole where the toilet once was, CAMERA pans down through the floor to...

INT. AUDITORIUM @ SAME

...the judges' table. As water drips ominously through the ceiling into the chalice...

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Fu Dog slaps Jake awake.

190 FU DOG  
Great, some sidekick I am. Lettin' the American Dragon get bested by a toilet. Come on, kid!

Finally, Jake comes to...

191 JAKE  
Wha? (then realizing) We gotta get outa here!

192 FU DOG  
Yeah, tell me something I don't know...

Jake grabs FU DOG, bursts through the bathroom door.

INT. STAIRWELL - SAME

As Jake runs downstairs he morphs into his human form.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

Jake, Fu Dog tucked under his arm, runs towards the judges table.

193 JAKE  
Jake Long. Did I miss my turn?

Jake arrives at the judges table just in time to see the chalice runneth over from the drips in the ceiling.

194 JAKE  
No!

The CHALICE starts to SPARK and SHAKE...

Jake quickly KICKS the chalice...

THE CHALICE - flies towards stage, landing right in SPUD's upsidedown TOP HAT. Spud waves his wand towards his top hat...

195 SPUD  
Observe, as Spud-The-Spudnificent  
pulls a rabbit out of his hat.

A DJINN emerges in a cloud of smoke and green-ish fiery sparks.

Spud and Trixie take, stunned.

Jake and Fu Dog exchange a glance, horrified as we...

FADE OUT.

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

INT. AUDITORIUM - TALENT SHOW - SAME

The Djinn thrashes about on stage, throwing fire balls with its every gesture.

Trixie and Spud take at each other in shock.

196           TRIXIE  
What the heck kinda rabbit is that?

197           SPUD  
(proud of himself)  
The magic kind!

Spud smiles and waves his wand dramatically at the Djinn.

198           SPUD  
Behold the magic of Spud-The  
Spudnificent!

THE AUDIENCE impressed and begins

Behind them the DJINN, a mass of green flames, rips out a light fixture, smashing it to the ground with a DISPLAY OF SPARKS. The audience CHEERS again.

Spud continues to make bold motions with his wand as the Djinn charges at Trixie.

IN THE WINGS - Jake quickly goes FULL DRAGON...

199           JAKE  
Dragon up...

..and dives at the Djinn.

ON STAGE - The Djinn and Jake throw impressive colorful balls of fire at each other.

Spud waves his wand at them, as he and Trixie take turns bowing and curtseying between explosions.

THE AUDIENCE

200 AUDIENCE MEMBERS  
Now that's good magic! / You know,  
I saw the same act in Vegas.

The guy next to her elbows her, shocked beyond belief.

ANGLE ON THE JUDGES TABLE - as Professor Rotwood runs up to  
Principal Derceto.

201 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Magical creatures! There are  
magical creatures on stage!

202 PRINCIPAL DECERTO  
Well, Professor Rotwood, it is a  
magic show.

203 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
No! Not magic magical creatures.  
Real ones! Living, breathing -  
fire breathing for that matter!!!

204 PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Don't be absurd. It's all done  
with slight of hand,  
pyrotechnics...

205 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD  
Pyrotechnics my eye! It's real, I  
tell you, and I'll prove it-

As Professor Rotwood tears towards the stage, Jake's and the  
Djinn's FIRE singes a rope, causing a SANDBAG to fall on his  
back, knocking him to the ground.

ON STAGE - JAKE AND THE DJINN wrestle across the stage in a  
fanfare of sparks and smoke. The audience and  
joyfully.

THE DJINN kicks Jake off of him, sending him out towards the  
audience. Jake flaps his wings, "breaking" just before he  
crashes into the thrilled audience.

Jake charges towards the Djinn, but the Djinn hits Jake with

a mighty blow the send him into the wings.

IN THE WINGS - Jake CRASHES into FU DOG, and both CRASH into a PROP WALL, shattering it. Jake morphs back into his human form on impact.

The DJINN gathers a giant green flame and aims it directly at SPUD. SPUD, still into his magic act, waves his wand at it dramatically.

206 SPUD  
Abigo -ere -egi -actum!

IN A DRAMATIC POOF OF SMOKE the Djinn is sucked back into the chalice (which is still in Spud's hat.) Spud takes in disbelief.

207 SPUD  
Awesome!

The audience ROARS with approval. Trixie and Spud bow.  
IN THE WINGS - Jake catches his breath, shocked.

208 JAKE  
Woah. He did it!

THE JUDGES stand - cheering.

SPUD is absolutely GLOWING with happiness.

209 SPUD  
Dude! I knew if I practiced magic long enough it would finally kick in one day!

ON THE JUDGES TABLE, as they peruse their list.

210 PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
Alright... and now our last contestant... Jake Long?

ON JAKE and FU DOG in the wings.

211 FU DOG  
Okay, kid, let's go win us a chalice.

Jake... looks at Spud, still basking in the . Spud takes a final bow, puts on his hat, and begins rolling his prop cart off the stage.

JAKE - picks up Fu Dog and is about to step out on stage. As Spud passes him, rolling off his table of props, he WHISPERS:

212 SPUD  
Good luck out there. And watch  
your back. Brad was talking about  
getting rid of you. I think he may  
be like, evil or something.

Jake watches Spud roll his cart away, shocked.

FU DOG elbows Jake.

213 FU DOG  
Come on, kid. What're you waiting  
for?

Jake watches Spud pack up his stuff in the wings.

214 JAKE  
Sorry, Fu. I gotta do what I gotta  
do.

ANGLE ON THE STAGE - as Jake steps out from the wings.

215 JAKE  
I'd like to withdraw myself from  
the competition.

The judges exchange a confused glance, shrugging.

Trixie and Spud take in shock.

Principal Derceto shrugs and wheels herself out on stage.

216 PRINCIPAL DERCETO  
In that case... the winner of the  
talent show is Spud-the  
Spudnificent!

Spud runs on stage. He takes off his hat to wave it to the audience, and the TROPHY falls out of it landing right on Principal Derceto's lap. Derceto hands the trophy to Spud happily.

The audience again. Spud waves the trophy in the air.

217 SPUD  
This one's for you, Super Gramps!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Jake and FU DOG walk home, when...

218 SPUD (O.S.)  
Yo, Jake, wait up!

Fu Dog quickly JUMPS into Jake's arm, posing as the puppet again.

219 SPUD  
I just... wanted to thank you for  
you know... everything.

220 JAKE  
Nah. I shoulda never entered the  
talent show in the first place. No  
one can beat Spud the Spudnificent!

221 TRIXIE  
Personally, I'm glad you ditched  
the ventriloquist act. That puppet  
gives me the creeps. The way its  
eyes follow you around...

222 FU DOG  
What can I say? I'm full of  
surprises, sister.

Trixie's eyes dart back and forth between Jake and Fu Dog suspiciously.

223 TRIXIE  
Seriously. Creepy.

Spud hands Jake the Chalice.

224 SPUD  
Here, Dude. I know you dropped out  
'cause of me. I want you to have  
this.



Jake and Spud share a smile.

225 JAKE  
You sure?

226 SPUD  
Totally.

Spud turns to leave, Trixie turns back around to address Jake.

227 TRIxie  
I'm not jokin' Jake. Give that  
ratty old thing to charity.

Trixie turns to walk away, Fu Dog paws her playfully kicks her in the pants. She turns back around to see Fu Dog frozen.

228 JAKE  
(innocent)  
What?

Trixie shrugs and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake and Fu Dog address Grandpa animatedly.

229 FU DOG  
Mission accomplished! You shoulda  
seen Jake! Fighting the Djinn, the  
crowds roaring...

230 GRANDPA  
Well done, young one.

231 JAKE  
Look, I know what you're gonna say.  
I totally picked the wrong road and-

Grandpa places a kind hand on Jake's shoulder.

232 GRANDPA  
You may have picked the wrong road -  
for the American Dragon.  
(MORE)

232 GRANDPA (CONT'D)  
But you picked the right road - for  
a friend. Now, let's put  
Taranushi's Chalice somewhere safe.

Fu Dog and Jake both turn to each other, eyes wide.

233 JAKE/FU DOG  
I thought you had it.

234 JAKE  
You had it when we left school.

235 FU DOG  
You had it on the subway.

Suddenly Fu Dog and Jake's eyes widen.

236 JAKE/FU DOG  
The subway!

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY - SAME

A large woman shifts in her seat uncomfortably, then stands  
to exit the subway.

As she turns her backside towards CAMERA, we see the  
flattened chalice stuck to the back of her skirt....

237 NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Taranushi's Chalice. For thousands  
of years man and magical beast  
alike have fought to possess it...

FADE OUT:

**THE END**